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SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 47/154 of 18 December 1992, the General Assembly, inter alia, called upon the international community and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide Liberia with technical, financial and other assistance for the repatriation and resettlement of Liberian refugees, returnees and displaced persons and for the rehabilitations of combatants. The Assembly appealed to the international community to provide adequate assistance to programmes and projects identified in the 1992 report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance for Liberia (A/47/528). The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to coordinate the work of the United Nations system and to mobilize assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia, to undertake, when conditions permit, in close collaboration with the authorities of Liberia, an overall assessment of needs, with the objective of holding, when appropriate, a round-table conference of donors for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia, and to report to it at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report describes the emergency assistance activities carried out in Liberia since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/47/528) in October 1992. The question of emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees in the neighbouring countries is addressed in a separate report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 47/107 of 16 December 1992.

3. During the period under review, every effort was made to maintain a coordinated United Nations response to all needs arising from the Liberian crisis. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Liberia (UNSCOL), based at Monrovia, was responsible for programmes and other humanitarian activities in Liberia. The Office of the Special Coordinator includes representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

4. UNHCR was responsible for field coordination at the subregional level with respect to refugees and returnees. United Nations resident coordinators in the host countries were responsible for national programmes and activities with respect to affected host country populations. At United Nations Headquarters, overall responsibility for coordinating the relief programmes was vested in the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

5. Since the outbreak of the Liberian crisis the Secretary-General has issued several appeals to the international community for emergency and humanitarian assistance to Liberia. A preliminary appeal made in December 1990, following the reestablishment of the United Nations presence in Monrovia, requested international contributions amounting to $14.4 million. The consolidated inter-agency appeal of July 1991 requested an additional $135.6 million. As a result of the new emergency situation arising from the October 1992 attack on Monrovia and the spread of hostilities to other parts of Liberia, a special emergency appeal for $7.5 million was issued in November 1992. Donations of

$146.7 million have been received in response to these appeals, as detailed in the annex to this report.

6. Most of the period covered by this report was characterized by continued deterioration of security and socio-economic conditions in Liberia. The October 1992 attack on Monrovia by forces of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and subsequent hostilities gave rise to massive population displacements and damage to infrastructure. Significant sections of the country were inaccessible to relief agencies for protracted periods owing to the conflict, logistical barriers or the inability to obtain security guarantees for proposed routes of access. These conditions placed large numbers of displaced people in the area north of Kakata, among other populations, in an increasingly precarious situation with malnutrition and life-threatening diseases spreading rapidly.

7. The signing of the Cotonou Peace Agreement on 25 July (see sect. IV below) created the prospect of more effective relief operations and the implementation of programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction that would ultimately restore Liberia's capacity to provide for the basic needs of its people. A route of access to the population around Kakata was opened from Monrovia. Further progress in emergency relief activities and the transition to rehabilitation and development will hinge crucially on successful implementation of the Agreement, which in turn will require the best efforts of the signatories, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations and the international community at large.

II. SECTORAL REVIEWS

A. Food and nutrition

8. The World Food Programme (WFP) and other providers of food aid, principally the Catholic Relief Services, have been providing emergency food requirements in all parts of Liberia since 1990. Between October 1990 and the end of 1992, Liberia received more than 170,000 MT of different food commodities, of which WFP provided 91,000 MT, or 53 per cent. The total quantity of food distributed through the network of international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during 1992 was about 70,000 MT, of which 21,000 MT were distributed outside Monrovia. Within Monrovia 31,500 MT were distributed through general food distributions, 5,000 MT to vulnerable groups, 2,000 MT to the displaced, 3,500 MT through food for work programmes, 4,000 MT through the school feeding programme and 3,000 MT through the food monetization programme.

9. During the first quarter of 1993, 11,000 MT were distributed, of which 2,000 MT went to areas outside Monrovia, mainly in Bomi and Cape Mount countries.

10. The resurgence of civil conflict from mid-1992 through mid-1993 dramatically increased the number of displaced persons, interfered with agricultural production and made distribution of seed rice and tools in some parts of the country nearly impossible. The harvest for 1993 and 1994 may thus be much lower than initially expected owing to the substantial reduction of the area under cultivation during the 1993 planting season. Agricultural production

in Margibi and Bassa and the important rice-cultivating counties of Lofa, Nimba and Bong is expected to be seriously affected and the harvest far less than required to sustain the current population of these counties.

11. The main elements of the food and nutrition assistance programme during 1992 and 1993 have been general distribution, school feeding and food for work. For the period 1993 and beyond innovative food for work schemes will be needed to encourage community rehabilitation efforts. Other components of the food assistance programme will support resettlement of the internally displaced, returning refugees and demobilized ex-combatants.

12. The food assistance needs for 1993 have been estimated at 105,150 MT of rice, 11,826 MT of vegetable oil, 21,900 MT of pulses, 4,380 MT of corn-soya blend and 437 MT of sugar, for a total of 143,693 MT. As of July slightly less than half that amount had been delivered or was in the pipeline. At a minimum, 75,511 MT of food commodities with a total value of about US$ 43 million were still required for 1993. For 1994, about 116,620 MT valued at about $60 million is required.

13. Expanded logistical support for food after distribution became an urgent necessity after October 1992, mainly to treat pockets of malnutrition in Lofa, Cape Mount, Margibi, Bassa, Bong and other areas that experienced population inflows as a result of the renewed hostilities. Further support in terms of staffing, communication, transport and administration will be required to meet the demands associated with resettlement and reintegration of the war-displaced and former combatants.

B. Health and medical care

14. Conditions in the health sector have remained alarming since the Liberian emergency began. The population in general is at considerable risk of exposure to epidemic diseases as a result of the widespread displacement and communal living in overcrowded conditions. The most prevalent diseases continue to be malaria, malnutrition, diarrhoea, measles, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, worm infections, scabies and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS.

15. Following the October 1992 crisis, the stable health conditions achieved in Monrovia during the first three quarters of the year were disrupted by the influx of large numbers of displaced persons into the city centre. In most rural areas, emergency humanitarian health and medical assistance remained the only source of care available to the population. The rising number of displaced persons and the shortage of trained manpower increased the difficulty of providing such services.

16. In the absence of fully functioning local institutions, the provision of health and medical services nationwide depends on the continuation of various projects already being implemented by WHO and UNICEF as lead agencies in the health sector, in collaboration with national and international medical-related NGOs. Following the withdrawal of some international NGOs active in the health sector, local NGOs have come under greater pressure to staff health facilities, supply drugs and equipment and administer health projects. There is thus an

increasing need to support local NGOs, which are assuming a larger responsibility for health service projects than in the past.

17. The focus of health activities during 1993-1994 and beyond will be to improve the health status of the population, to prevent epidemics of communicable diseases such as measles and cholera and to combat childhood malnutrition. Attention should also be devoted to improving the availability of services and providing the required managerial, training and supervisory support for the reopening of health-care facilities nationwide. The underlying strategy is to integrate the isolated, yet individually effective emergency relief projects in the health sector into a consolidated primary health-care system over which the Ministry of Health would eventually assume control.

18. Additional funding will be needed to expand immunization against childhood diseases and build up logistical support to reach those areas where urgent health-care needs are as yet unmet. County, district and urban health-care facilities are in a serious state of disrepair. There are shortages of essential equipment, drugs, blood banking facilities and supplies. Hospital and community health staff need on-the-job training to provide essential services, including maternal and child health care and family planning. Physicians and other paramedics need to be trained to join the limited pool of health personnel. It is also necessary to strengthen county, district and peri-urban hospitals, health centres and clinics as focal points for delivering effective primary health care in the villages and communities.

C. Water, sanitation and power

19. The provision of safe drinking water and general sanitation has been among the more critical needs addressed by United Nations agencies and NGOs in Liberia. Since 1990 the Monrovia population has relied principally on shallow wells and water trucking operations run by UNICEF and international NGOs. A more permanent solution involves rehabilitation of the water treatment plant at White Plains, which, given the extensive nature of the repairs required, will be carried out in stages. While this work is being done, the construction of additional wells and the repair of handpumps are urgently required to sustain the supply of safe water.

20. The provision of safe water through the Monrovia water system requires a stable source of electricity. Prior to the war the Liberia Electricity Corporation provided power from its Mt. Coffee hydro-electric dam and thermal generating units based at Bushrod Island. Current plans call for assistance to rehabilitate the Mitsubishi power plant at Bushrod Island, making use of an $800,000 grant from the Government of Japan.

21. In the rural areas the traditional sources of water are open wells, boreholes with hand pumps, and surface water. Before the war water projects undertaken by the Ministry of Rural Development were in various stages of completion. Since the war, UNICEF and NGOs have been active in the maintenance of hand pumps, installation of new pumps, rehabilitation of old wells and monitoring of the water quality. New shallow wells and boreholes are also being constructed.

22. In the wake of the October 1992 crisis, with its massive influx of displaced persons, the accumulation of garbage in Monrovia posed serious health problems. The Monrovia City Corporation, which had the main responsibility for garbage disposal, became inactive following the crisis. UNICEF, together with several NGOs, became involved in garbage disposal operations to avert a major sanitation disaster and assisted the Monrovia City Corporation in reactivating its garbage disposal service. The City Corporation will need additional assistance to rebuild its capacity during 1993 and 1994.

23. Sanitation services in rural areas were inadequate even before the war. Since the emergency, the focus of rural sanitation projects has been construction of a limited number of pit latrines in areas of high population concentration.

24. As the process of resettlement begins, safe water and sanitation services will have to be extended to resettlement sites and sustained until communities can begin to provide for their own needs. Bilateral contributions are expected to complement efforts coordinated by the United Nations in this sector.

D. Children in difficult circumstances

25. The ongoing hostilities in many parts of the country following the October 1992 attack on Monrovia worsened conditions, especially for children and their mothers, necessitating the intensification of humanitarian and social services. Most of the assistance to children in difficult circumstance has been provided through a collaborative effort of several national and international NGOs, together with WHO and UNICEF as the lead United Nations agencies.

26. Health-related assistance for children concentrates on the physical rehabilitation of disabled children and counselling for war-traumatized children. These programmes are coordinated through the Children's Emergency Committee, which was set up during the crisis with UNICEF, the Ministry of Health, the Child Assistance Project, a consortium of NGOs, and the Save the Children Fund as the initial members. WHO was mandated to play a supervisory role in view of its technical expertise. WHO conducted the initial workshops to train about 40 social workers in the programme for children in difficult circumstances.

27. Displaced, orphaned and abandoned children are assisted by trained social workers who have handled over 9,000 cases in Monrovia and some 1,000 in Bomi and Cape Mount counties. Assistance to children in the rural areas includes an intensive tracing and family reunification programme and a residential centre for those who cannot be placed with families in villages. In the interior sections of Liberia, UNICEF expects to continue supporting several orphanages for displaced children, whose numbers have increased dramatically.

28. The Benedict Mennie Rehabilitation Centre for Children, which provided services for children with war-related injuries, was destroyed by the recent hostilities. The orthopaedic workshop has been renovated at another site and has commenced manufacture of artificial limbs. Two mobile units are also available to assess injuries and disabilities and offer community-based rehabilitation services in rural areas.

29. The repeated eruption of hostilities in the country has intensified the severe war trauma experienced by children. The war trauma counsellors' training programme has been reactivated and counselling services are being expanded. Special workshops are being offered for schools to facilitate the readjustment of students and teachers, and a war affected-children's home established in Monrovia now has about 71 children in a residential programme.

30. Other assistance in Monrovia includes an agricultural vocational training programme for about 500 street children. Emergency assistance provided to single and displaced mothers with children since the October 1992 crisis will have to be continued for the better part of 1993 and 1994. Day care centres have been set up at the general market and other sites in Monrovia, and have been combined with literacy programmes, training for income generation and a small-scale loan programme.

31. Since November 1992 UNICEF, at the request of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has intervened to assist child soldiers detained by the ECOWAS peace-keeping forces (ECOMOG) and the armed forces of Liberia in the same facilities as adult prisoners of war. The detained child soldiers aged between 9 and 15 years receive intensive psychological counselling, literacy training and medical care in a structured environment.

32. In addition to the child soldiers detained in Monrovia, large numbers of children have been fighting as soldiers of various warring factions in other parts of Liberia. A new residential programme for the rehabilitation of young former combatants is planned in anticipation of a general demobilization. The programme will be modeled after the war-affected children home in Monrovia and will offer literacy and vocational training and counselling for a minimum of 500 children accommodated at the site in Bomi county donated by the United States Embassy.

E. Education and training

33. Management of the Liberian education sector was problematic even before the current emergency. The population of Liberia is young, with 43 per cent below 15 years of age. A study undertaken in 1988 showed that only 50 per cent of the school-age population was attending school. Illiteracy rates were found to be high, especially among women, of whom 71 per cent were estimated to be illiterate. Over 70 per cent of the teachers were under-qualified and textbooks were in short supply.

34. It is clear that almost four years of continued hostilities have left the already ailing education sector in Liberia in a state of near paralysis. A detailed situation analysis has not been possible owing to the war situation, and the current strategy for assistance pursued by UNICEF and its national and international NGO partners has been mainly of an emergency nature. 1991 saw the emergence of tutorial programmes or "emergency schools" numbering over 500 in Monrovia alone. Many more were opened in other parts of Liberia, encouraged by the WFP school feeding programme and the distribution of school supplies by UNICEF in many parts of the country.

35. Support for the education sector during 1993-1994 will aim at restarting educational activities in war-affected parts of the country as conditions begin to normalize. In view of the anticipated demobilization of tens of thousands of combatants, of whom some 60 per cent will be school aged, the renovation of existing school facilities, which are badly in need of basic furniture and equipment will need to receive high priority. Particularly attention should focus on providing vocational training courses, for which most demobilized combatants have expressed a preference.

F. Shelter

36. The need for the development of an emergency shelter programme in Monrovia has become critical owing to the partial destruction of the housing stock and the influx of displaced persons. A longer-term shelter sector strategy is also required to address the underdevelopment of housing facilities in both urban and rural parts of the country.

37. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has begun an assessment of requirements for an emergency as well as a medium- to longer-term shelter programme to respond to the needs of up to 750,000 returning refugees as well as hundreds of thousands of internally displaced in various parts of the country. The shelter programme will be closely linked with plans for repatriation, resettlement and reintegration. Provisions will be made for the construction of emergency shelters at designated reception points and the development of reinsertion and resettlement community sites.

G. Agriculture

38. The agricultural support programme focuses on providing assistance to the rural population to ensure their survival and the resettlement of agricultural communities. Major activities in this sector include the distribution of tools, seeds and other essential farming inputs to approximately 170,000 agricultural households in accessible rural communities throughout Liberia. United Nations Volunteer agronomists have been collaborating with community organizations and NGOs to expand the distribution of agricultural inputs and provide advice to improve the performance of small-scale agriculture. A small amount of money generated from the sale of agricultural inputs is re-invested into rural communities to support reconstruction and sanitation projects.

39. In the framework of the Secretary-General's appeal of July 1991, FAO fielded eight missions in 1992 under its Technical Cooperation Programme and formulated a number of projects that can directly support the revitalization of agricultural production nationwide. These projects include reactivation of rural blacksmithing, provision of farm inputs backed up by technical advice to farmers; cassava processing, marketing development to assist small-scale producers, and support for the redevelopment of the livestock and poultry industries in view of the depletion of livestock during the crisis. Artisanal fishermen in communities along the coast are also to be assisted with fishing gear, equipment and fuel on a revolving fund basis to help reactivate fishing activities. A seed technology project is designed to help meet the yearly shortage of quality seeds, especially rice seeds.

40. The main thrust of the 1992/93 agricultural programme has been the provision of farm inputs to ensure the cultivation of swamp and upland rice and other crops such as cassava and vegetables. Given the limited distribution of seeds and tools prior to the 1993 planting season, a timely response by donors to the current appeal for assistance in the agricultural sector is important in order to support land preparation starting in the last quarter of 1993 and planting in the first quarter of 1994. In addition to addressing the immediate demand for agricultural inputs for the 1993 and 1994 cropping seasons, there is also a need to undertake activities that will lay the basis for future rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programmes. To this end, FAO will be fielding an agriculture sector review mission supported by UNDP funding.

H. Relief management support

41. The office of the United Nations Special Coordinator has played a leading role in building up local NGOs, which have assumed a central role in relief and rehabilitation activities in Liberia. The local NGOs have organized community welfare teams responsible for the distribution of relief items, implementation of community projects and monitoring of population movements.

42. Operational centres were established by the United Nations in various parts of the country to provide the basis for community outreach and support to local NGOs. The first operational centre was established in Gbarnga, followed by Zwedru, Harper and Voinjama. Temporary centres were set up as necessary to respond to local needs and conditions. In the centres located outside Monrovia, United Nations Volunteers were responsible for coordinating the emergency services and providing specialized services in areas such as health and agriculture.

43. Most operational centres became inactive following the October 1992 emergency. Assuming that peaceful conditions prevail in the country, the operational centres can be reactivated to serve as the functional basis for emergency assistance as well as rehabilitation and reconstruction.

44. Significant expenditures will be required in 1993-1994 to support staff including logisticians, consultants, administrative and local support staff and United Nations Volunteers, to support local NGOs, and to finance an expanded network of centres.

III. ASSISTANCE BY MEMBER STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

45. In addition to the activities described above, several member States and organizations of the United Nations system have provided information on assistance rendered to Liberians during the period under review.

A. Member States

Denmark

46. In 1992, Danish emergency assistance to Liberia amounted to DKr 5,500,000 channelled through the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), UNICEF and UNHCR.

Germany

47. In 1992, Germany contributed humanitarian assistance to Liberia in the amount of DM 364,900 in total. One project was executed by the ICRC amounting to DM 350,000. An additional DM 14,900 were contributed for the financing of rice seeds.

48. In the current budget year of 1993, an amount of DM 750,000 has thus far been provided out of humanitarian assistance funds. These funds are being used for the financing of a UNICEF project in the medical field.

49. In view of the warlike events in Liberia, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has suspended its development cooperation with Liberia for the time being.

Sweden

50. During the present fiscal year (1992/93), SKr 5.2 million, from the appropriation for disaster relief, has been allocated to Liberia. Of this amount, SKr 2 million has been channelled into an appeal by the Department for Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat for internally displaced persons and the rest to contributions through Swedish NGOs.

B. Organizations of the United Nations system

United Nations Development Programme

51. Since the beginning of the crisis UNDP has been assisting the emergency humanitarian operations in Liberia by providing the services of the United Nations Special Coordinator and other administrative staff. Together with his team of UNDP international and national colleagues, the Special Coordinator has led the United Nations system's emergency relief operations throughout the country. In the absence of a country-wide government structure, the four operational centres established with the assistance of UNDP and others in strategic rural areas continued to enhance the capacity of both United Nations and NGO programmes to deliver emergency relief. In addition to the UNDP contribution of $3.9 million under the Emergency Logistics Support Project, which has been supporting the emergency operations of the United Nations system and NGOs in Liberia since November 1990, other donors have contributed as follows: Canada $262,013; Netherlands $470,968; United Kingdom $309,750; WFP $1,063,668; and USAID $499,500 (total including UNDP $6.5 million). Under its Humanitarian Programme, UNDP has also provided $150,000 for the reintegration of returnees and $150,000 for emergency assistance to displaced persons.

52. A major concern of UNSCOL/UNDP in supporting emergency programmes has been to facilitate the transition to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. Efforts started in 1992 in this direction were, unfortunately, thwarted by the sudden events of October 1992. Under a rehabilitation and reconstruction planning project, with a total UNDP contribution of $1,271,680 ($971,680 in indicative planning figures (IPF) and $300,000 from the Humanitarian Programme), activities have already commenced to carry out a comprehensive sectoral needs assessment on a country-wide basis, with the full participation of Liberians themselves, with a view to formulating programme and policy options for the consideration of the new united government when it is formed after the elections. For the immediate future, therefore, UNDP support will focus on rehabilitation, reconstruction and the resumption of development, including reintegration of demobilized combatants, returnees and displaced persons.

53. UNSCOL/UNDP continued to support two local non-governmental organizations that are assisting in the distribution of relief supplies including food, education materials, agricultural tools and seeds and health supplies. These are Special Emergency Life Food (SELF) in Monrovia and Liberians United to Save Humanity (LUSH) based in Gbarnga.

54. With regard to paragraph 6 (b) of Assembly resolution 47/154, UNDP will stand ready to assist the government in organizing the round-table conference of donors for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia as soon as the opportunity presents itself.

United Nations Population Fund

55. The country programme for Liberia was approved in 1987 for five years in the amount of $3 million. At the outbreak of the civil war in 1990, programme expenditures totalled almost $2 million. At this time, field dependent projects remain suspended owing to the security situation. Office activities, such as the review and analysis of existing demographic data and related workshops for government staff on population policy implementation, are receiving modest support.

56. UNFPA is providing funding support for government activities in connection with World Population Day as well as for the series of national activities in preparation for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Later in 1993, and as may be advised by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Liberia, based on the security situation, UNFPA intends to field a preliminary fact-finding mission to Monrovia with the objective of advising on the possibilities for resuming operational activities in the population field.

World Food Programme

57. Although there were signs that the regional peace process, and with it prospects for repatriation and resettlement of the more than 2 million refugees and displaced persons, had made progress in 1992, the renewed outbreak of hostilities between the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and ECOMOG in October 1992 demonstrated the need for continuing food assistance in the four affected countries (Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone).

58. Since the inception of the civil strife emergency in December 1989, WFP assistance to the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees and internally displaced populations has been channelled through a series of six country-specific and three regional emergency operations, as well as three regional protracted refugee and displaced person projects, for which a total of nearly 539,000 tons of basic food commodity commitments have so far been allocated, with actual deliveries amounting to approximately 300,000 tons. Additional food aid has also been supplied to Liberia and Sierra Leone on a bilateral basis. As from January 1992, WFP has further assumed overall responsibility for coordinating the mobilization and delivery of most food consignments from various donor sources.

Joint food aid assessment mission

59. The streamlining of the refugee registration system and some spontaneous repatriation to Liberia have contributed to an overall stabilization in the refugee case-load since 1990. However, the recent civil unrest in both Liberia and Sierra Leone has resulted in new refugee influxes and an increase in the number of internally displaced persons. Based upon these developments, a joint WFP/UNHCR refugee food aid assessment mission to three of the four affected countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone) was undertaken in November 1992, with the additional participation of a major donor representative (United States of America) and two NGOs (the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Médecins sans Frontières/Belgium).

60. The mission recommended reducing the total beneficiary case-load slightly to 2,028,000 Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees and internally displaced persons in the four affected countries as the planning figure for 1993/94.

Safety net for vulnerable groups and new influxes

61. The assessment mission considered the maintenance of supplementary feeding essential as a safety-net for vulnerable groups and new influxes of displaced persons, particularly in Liberia where persistent insecurity has sharply reduced the food supply in Monrovia and in Lofa County. An additional supplement of corn-soya blend (125 gr/day) and rice (100 gr/day) will, therefore, be allocated to 395,500 vulnerable group beneficiaries in three of the affected countries (Côte d'Ivoire as the exception) during 1993/94.

Developmental considerations

62. As the refugees and internally displaced persons have for the most part been integrated into host families within local communities of the same ethnic origins in the asylum countries, the promotion of food self-sufficiency and economic self-reliance has proved to be far more successful than in other major refugee and displaced person feeding operations in Africa. With a few exceptions in Liberia and Sierra Leone, the nutritional status of the refugees and displaced populations is generally satisfactory and, in fact, often better than that of the local populations. The rich agricultural potential of the four affected countries and the Governments' liberal land tenure policy have enabled the beneficiaries to cover most of their daily food consumption requirements through their own local production and independent financial resources.

Considerable employment and economic income-generating market activities also exist for refugees in both Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

63. Within this context, the integrated agricultural development projects covering both the refugee/displaced and local populations will be continued and intensified through the funding support of UNHCR, WFP, other United Nations agencies and major donors in order to maximize the beneficiaries' local cereal and tuber production, with a view to achieving food self-sufficiency. Necessary non-food item inputs, e.g. tools, seeds and fertilizers, must be provided to ensure adequate donor support for these schemes.

Institutional responsibilities

64. The feeding operations for refugees and displaced persons in each of the four affected countries are managed by government-established national and regional interministerial coordination committees, working in close liaison with the United Nations system (UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP), the international donor community and operational NGOs (League of Red Cross Societies, ICRC, Médecins sans Frontières, etc.). In Liberia, the Interim Government of National Unity supported by ECOMOG ensures the security and protection of the United Nations organizations and NGOs distributing relief assistance in Monrovia, while the Ministries of Planning and Health of the NPFL coordinate relief assistance provided by United Nations agencies and through NGOs in the interior of Liberia.

65. In May 1993, the governing body of WFP, the Committee of Food Aid Policies and Programmes, approved a second extension of food aid deliveries under the protracted refugee operation with a total value of $115 million, covering the year 1994.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

66. In July 1992, Habitat held a meeting at its headquarters with a delegation of Liberian Government officials headed by the Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs. Areas for technical cooperation were discussed, including a human settlement sector study and a needs assessment with special reference to post-war housing needs and the formulation of a short-term strategy for displaced persons and returnees.

67. Following a request from the Government, Habitat has allocated funds to undertake the needs assessment, and a mission to Monrovia took place in June 1993, in cooperation with UNDP and UNSCOL, to assess human settlements conditions, particularly for displaced persons, returnees and refugees.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

68. Coverage by the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System of the crop and food supply conditions in Liberia is constrained by the prevailing instability in the country. Nevertheless, conditions are monitored and supply/demand analyses are made through FAO representation, remote sensing, and information on food aid allocations and deliveries. Through its Technical Cooperation Programme, FAO is providing agricultural inputs (rice seeds and hand

tools for a total value of $210,000) to enable the Liberian farmers to return to food production and to contribute to the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector.

World Health Organization

69. WHO launched an appeal for Liberia in October 1992, to which the Government of the United Kingdom responded favourably. From its donation of $130,000, WHO has supplemented emergency health programmes in Liberia funded from its regular budget through the provision of life-saving drugs and medical supplies to the displaced population in chronic areas, and national blood bank and blood transfusion services.

70. In addition to material assistance, WHO also provided technical support, including training.

World Bank

71. Staff of the Bank met with the Liberian Minister of Economic Development in Washington, D.C. in June 1993. The Ministry cooperated with the United Nations Special Coordinator on the preparation of a brief report on issues for post-war reconstruction and international assistance, which was made available to the Bank.

72. Recently, the Bank has done some work on a report related to demobilization, and it is currently looking at the prospects for reconstruction planning in Liberia.

International Monetary Fund

73. Owing to the still adverse political and social climate, the Fund has not been in a position to provide financial assistance to Liberia, or to help the Liberian authorities in elaborating appropriate economic and financial policies. Nevertheless, the Fund staff has maintained contact with the authorities, including at the recent annual meeting of the African Development Bank, and remains ready to commence a policy dialogue as soon as conditions permit.

IV. SUPPORT FOR THE PEACE PROCESS

74. Apart from the provision of humanitarian relief assistance, the United Nations has taken a number of measures aimed at promoting a peaceful settlement of the Liberian conflict. By its resolution 788 (1992) of 19 November 1992, the Security Council called upon all parties to the conflict in Liberia to cooperate in the peace process initiated by ECOWAS; decided, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, that all States should implement a general and complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Liberia, with the exception of weapons and military equipment destined for the sole use of the peace-keeping forces of ECOWAS in Liberia, and requested the Secretary-General to dispatch urgently a Special Representative to Liberia to evaluate the situation.

75. The diplomatic efforts undertaken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General were instrumental in the signing of a peace agreement by the Interim Government of National Unity of Liberia, NPFL and the United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy (ULIMO) at Cotonou, Benin, on 25 July 1993 (see S/26272, annex). The Cotonou Agreement provides for a cease-fire, disarmament and demobilization of the warring parties, formation of a transitional government, and the holding of general and presidential elections. ECOMOG and a United Nations observer mission are to supervise the implementation of the Agreement. The parties also agree that every effort should be made to deliver humanitarian assistance to all Liberians and to create conditions that will allow refugees and displaced persons to return to their places of origin.

76. The signing of the Cotonou Agreement offers promise of the resolution of the political and military crisis in Liberia and thus of the resumption of normal economic and social life. However, it will take some time before the Agreement is translated into real improvements in the welfare of the Liberian people and thus it will be necessary to maintain the current range of humanitarian assistance activities for the immediate future. In addition, the programme must be expanded to respond to certain requirements arising from the Agreement, in particular the return of refugees, the resettlement of displaced persons, and the demobilization and reintegration of troops. The programme should also cover needed demining activities. Finally, the programme should reflect a shift in emphasis from relief activities towards reconstruction and rehabilitation. It is anticipated that an appeal by the Secretary-General encompassing the above will be issued in the near future.

77. The continuation and expansion of the humanitarian assistance programme are essential not only for the welfare of the people of Liberia but also for the creation of a climate conducive to the successful implementation of the Agreement. A particular concern in this regard is the establishment of incentives and conditions to support the disarmament and demobilization process. This concern can perhaps best be met by a programme of community development that would generate employment and training opportunities for the former combatants in their place of origin.

ANNEX

List of contributions to the emergency humanitarian programme for Liberia

(in United States dollars)

Donor	Total amount
Austria	41 390
Belgium	69 444
Canada	1 709 007
Denmark	2 653 496
Finland	1 352 964
France	29 000
Germany	4 960 887
Ghana	148 870
Italy	200 404
Japan	6 551 450
Luxembourg	47 500
Mauritius	5 000
Netherlands	3 171 610
Norway	2 257 009
Spain	476 621
Sweden	4 479 407
Switzerland	70 000
United Kingdom	3 242 661
United States	83 341 357
European Economic Community	14 438 721
CARITAS	40 000
Direct contributions by United Nations agencies	16 964 390
United Nations Philatelic Society	5 000
Rotary International	59 615
Child Survival and Development Committee	300 000
TOTAL	146 673 670